

Message Text

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72

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 HEW-08 JUSE-00 OIC-04 ACDA-19

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 DRC-01

/150 W

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R 311845Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5357

USMISSION USUN NY

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L DUBLIN 0171

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SOCI, UN, EI

SUBJ: HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION COMPLAINT AGAINST UK

REF: (A) LONDON 01071, (B) LONDON 01084, (C) STATE 10465

1. QUESTION OF BRITISH VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN NORTHERN IRELAND ATTRACTS WIDE ATTENTION IN THE IRISH REPUBLIC AND INVARIABLY STIRS DEEP EMOTIONS. AS DEPT IS AWARE, IRISH GOVT ITSELF HAS CHARGED THE BRITISH WITH TORTURE AND OTHER ALLEGATIONS BEFORE THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN STRASBOURG. THESE CHARGES ARE STILL PENDING AND DESPITE THE EFFORTS OF BOTH THE IRISH AND BRITISH GOVERNMENTS TO ARRIVE AT A POLITICAL COMPROMISE IN THE SUNNINGDALE AGREEMENT, THE IRISH HAVE SHOWN NO EVIDENCE WHATSOEVER OF BACKING AWAY FROM THE CHARGES LEVEL IN STRASBOURG.

2. WE UNDERSTAND OF COURSE THAT THE CHARGES AGAINST THE UK IN THE HRC ARE BEING LEVELED BY AMENSTY INTERNATIONAL AND WE UNDERSTAND THE CONCERN THAT THE BRITISH HAVE WITH SEAN MACBRIDE. THEIR BELIEF THAT HE MAY BE DISTINCTLY HOSTILE TO THEM IS WELL FOUNDED PARTICULARLY
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IN VIEW OF HIS FATHER'S EXECUTION.

3. AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND, WE BELIEVE THAT ANY
SUPPORT WE GIVE THE BRITISH ON THIS QUESTION CAN DAMAGE OUR
RELATIONS WITH THE IRISH, AND INDEED, IF IT BECOMES
PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE THAT WE HAD SUPPORTED THE BRITISH ON
THIS QUESTION, WE FORESEE THE POSSIBILITY OF A STRONG
PUBLIC REACTION WITH CONSEQUENT MEDIA REFERENCES TO MAI LEI, AMERICAN
TORTURES IN VIETNAM, ETC., WHICH
INCIDENTALLY ARE FAVORITE HOBBY HORSES OF MACBRIDE.
EMBASSY DUBLIN THEREFORE BELIEVES THAT WE HAVE NOTHING
OF VALUE TO GAIN FROM TAKING A POSITION ON THIS ISSUE, AND
MUCH TO LOSE. WE RECOMMEND THAT WE ABSTAIN.
MOORE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS, POLICE INVESTIGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 JAN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: kelleyw0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974DUBLIN00171
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: DUBLIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974013/aaaaacin.tel
Line Count: 73
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: (A) LONDON 01071, (B) LONDON 01084,, (C) STATE 10465
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: kelleyw0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 MAY 2002 by cunninfx>; APPROVED <01-Oct-2002 by kelleyw0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION COMPLAINT AGAINST UK
TAGS: SOCI, EI, UN
To: STATE USUN NEW YORK
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005